

# DNR NEWS

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## **Lake Michigan Coastal Program Provides Grant Funds to NW Indiana Mayors for Feasibility Study on the Marquette Greenway Plan**

At a press conference Tuesday Congressman Pete Visclosky announced that the mayors of East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Portage, and Whiting agreed to work together on the first phase to implement the Marquette plan.

The guiding principles of this study are: recapturing 75 percent of the shoreline for public use, a minimum 200-foot setback from the shoreline for all new structures and facilities, and a continuous pedestrian/bicycle trail along the shore from the Illinois border to the eastern edge of Portage. John Goss, Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, said “this is a great day for natural resources in Indiana”.

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program will provide \$160,000 to be matched by \$8,000 from each participating city. It is anticipated that this project will take one year to complete and will provide a guide for future regional planning efforts and implementation of the Marquette Plan.

The purpose of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) is to support coordination and partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies and local organizations for the protection and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the Lake Michigan region. Mike Molnar Program Manager for the LMCP stated “This project is a perfect fit for what the Program is trying to achieve. It incorporates public access, economic development, resource protection, and most importantly brings representatives from the local, state, and federal level to the table to work on a common cause.”

The National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration provides more than \$1 million annually to implement the LMCP and for grants to communities in northwest Indiana.

For more information regarding the program and funding opportunities please reference <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/>